

REPORT OF THE ALTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It has been said that history shapes the present. If that is true then we need to explore Alton's history to fully understand how it came to be the unique community in which we all currently choose to live. The Alton Historical Society exists to aid in that process. The Society's two primary functions are:

- 1) To preserve local history through the collection of artifacts and information
- 2) To encourage people to think about, and explore, Alton's rich history

In an effort to preserve local history we maintain the **Alton Historical Society Museum**, located in the lower level of the Gilman Library. The museum provides a glimpse into Alton's past. During 2004 the Museum was open Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 during the months of July and August. It was also open for visits from the Alton Central School 4th grade classes and the Gilmanton Historical Society.

To encourage people to think about Alton's History, and History in general, we offer a **series of Programs** from April through October. The programs in 2004 were:

- * Identifying and Preserving Historic and Family Photographs - Presented by Photo Historian Thom Hindle
- * Alton Remembrances - A walk down memory lane with long-time Alton residents Tallant Dodge, Donald Jordan and Stanley Sanborn
- * Daniel Webster: His Life and Times - by Dr. Kenneth Shewmaker from Dartmouth College (This was a joint meeting with the Friends of the Gilman Library)
- * When Women and Mountains Meet - presented by author Julie Boardman
- * Hiking the Sierras - Presented by Mary Batchelder
- * Access to Ideas - presented by Jeannie Ferber

The society also held an appraisal day, and went on a trip to the Wright Museum in Wolfeboro. 2004 was a busy year, and I would like to thank all of the members who volunteered at the museum, or helped with our programs. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Gilman Library for their continuing support of the Society.

We would like to expand our efforts in 2005 but need more active members to do so. Please consider joining us in our efforts to preserve and promote Alton's History.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Laurion, President